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*Patti Crowder*  
Patti Crowder

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: Benjamin N. Eldridge et al.

Application No.: 09/846,490

Filing Date: April 30, 2001

For: PROBE CARD ASSEMBLY AND KIT, AND  
METHODS OF MAKING SAME

Examiner: Carl J. Arbes

Group Art Unit: 3729

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication, foreign patent document, and pending U.S. application (including drawings and claims) is being submitted herewith, with exception of U.S. issued patents and U.S. published applications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), as well as, a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i).

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to initial and return the attached Form PTO/SB/08A in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))  
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage  
-- OR --
- ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits  
-- OR --
- ☒ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**

☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**

B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.



*Fee Authorization.* Although Applicants believe that no additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment associated, with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P6D2-US).

Respectfully submitted,

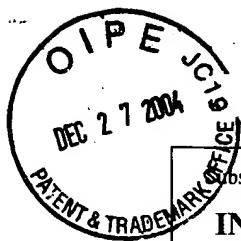
Date: December 22, 2004

By: 

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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/846,490
				Filing Date	April 30, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Eldridge et al.
				Group Art Unit	3729
				Examiner Name	C. Arbes
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	P6D2-US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Related	Copy Enclosed
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>				
	1	3493858		D.G. Baron et al.	2/3/70		No
	2	3806801		Bove	4/23/74		No
	3	3911361		Bove et al.	10/7/75		No
	4	4423376		Brynes et al.	12/27/83		No
	5	4837622		Whann et al.	6/6/89		No
	6	4916002		Carver	4/10/90		No
	7	5059898		Barsotti et al.	10/22/91		No
	8	5177439		Liu et al.	1/5/93		No
	9	5221415		Albrecht et al.	6/22/93		No
	10	5367165		Toda et al.	11/22/94		No
	11	5546375		Shimada et al.	8/13/96		No

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Copy Enclosed	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
	12	JP	1150862		Mitsubishi Electric Corp.	6/13/89	Yes	X
	13	JP	6-151532		Tokyo Electron Yamanashi KK	5/31/94	Yes	X
	14	JP	63-293934		Hitachi	11/30/88	Yes	X
	15	JP	6-84455		Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	3/25/94	Yes	X
	16	JP	7-7052		Seiko-Epson Corp	1/10/95	Yes	X
	17	EP	508707		Texas Instruments	10/14/92	Yes	X

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

*Complete If Known*

Application Number	09/846,490
Filing Date	April 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Benjamin Eldridge et al.
Group Art Unit	3729
Examiner Name	C. Arbes
Attorney Docket No.	P6D2-US

Sheet	2	of	2
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## OTHER PRIOR ART – NONPATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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